

**ABSOLUTE RATING:**      **Excellent**  
**IMPROVEMENT RATING:**      **Excellent**

Number of high schools with students similar to ours: 29. The absolute ratings for those schools ranged from average to excellent. For the improvement ratings, the range was from unsatisfactory to excellent.  
*(Definitions of School Rating Terms on Page 4)*

#### RATINGS OVER A 4-YEAR PERIOD

|             | Absolute Rating | Improvement Rating |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>2001</b> | Excellent       | Excellent          |
| <b>2002</b> |                 |                    |
| <b>2003</b> |                 |                    |
| <b>2004</b> |                 |                    |

#### TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

|                         | Our School |      |      | Schools With Students Like Ours |      |      |
|-------------------------|------------|------|------|---------------------------------|------|------|
|                         | 1999       | 2000 | 2001 | 1999                            | 2000 | 2001 |
| • Passed all 3 subtests | 81.1       | 80.7 | 79.8 | 67.7                            | 73.7 | 75.0 |
| • Passed 2 subtests     | 11.8       | 8.4  | 10.8 | 17.3                            | 14.9 | 14.2 |
| • Passed 1 subtest      | 4.7        | 6.5  | 6.3  | 9.8                             | 7.8  | 7.2  |
| • Passed no subtests    | 2.4        | 4.3  | 3.0  | 5.2                             | 3.6  | 3.6  |

| <b>ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS</b>                              | Our School | Schools With Students Like Ours |
|---|------------|---------------------------------|
| % of seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarships at four-year institutions | 42.4%      | 26.1%                           |
| % of seniors who met the SAT requirement                              | 42.8%      | 27.5%                           |
| % of seniors who met the grade point average                          | 70.7%      | 53.7%                           |

Beginning in 2003, the graduation rate for each high school will be included in the school rating.

#### PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

| Seniors                                      |                                       |                                   |                 |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Student Group                                | Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2001 | Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships | Graduation Rate |
| <b>All students</b>                          | 95.9%                                 | 42.4%                             | N/A until 2003  |
| Students with disabilities other than speech | 80.0%                                 | 0.0%                              |                 |
| Students without disabilities                | 96.8%                                 | 42.5%                             |                 |
| <b>Gender</b>                                |                                       |                                   |                 |
| Male   | 94.1%                                 | 42.6%                             |                 |
| Female                                       | 97.5%                                 | 42.2%                             |                 |
| <b>Ethnic Group</b>                          |                                       |                                   |                 |
| African American                             | 94.7%                                 | 10.0%                             |                 |
| Hispanic                                     | 100.0%                                | 33.3%                             |                 |
| White  | 96.0%                                 | 49.2%                             |                 |
| Other  | 100.0%                                | 66.7%                             |                 |
| <b>Lunch Status</b>                          |                                       |                                   |                 |
| Free/reduced-price lunch                     | 94.3%                                 | 5.3%                              |                 |
| Pay for lunch                                | 96.0%                                 | 45.7%                             |                 |

#### STUDENTS IN CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY COURSES

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Mastering core competencies | 68.8%  |
| Completers placed           | 100.0% |
| Eligible students enrolled  | 53.9%  |

## SCHOOL PROFILE

### INDICATORS OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

|  | Our School | Change from Last Year | Schools with Students Like Ours | Median High School |
|--|------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>SCHOOL</b>  |            |                       |                                 |                    |
| • Dollars spent per student  | \$4,342    | N/A                   | \$4,947                         | \$5,668            |
| • Prime instructional time   | 90.5%      | Down from 91.0%       | 90.9%                           | 90.1%              |
| • Student-teacher ratio  | 31.8 to 1  | N/A                   | 27.2 to 1                       | 25.1 to 1          |
| <b>STUDENTS (n=1,446)</b>  |            |                       |                                 |                    |
| • Advanced Placement/ Int'l Baccalaureate Program Exam Success Ratio | 41.7%      | N/A                   | 52.5%                           | 40.0%              |
| • Attendance rate  | 95.3%      | Down from 95.5%       | 95.6%                           | 95.3%              |
| • Retention rate   | 8.5%       | Up from 6.6%          | 8.2%                            | 10.0%              |
| <b>TEACHERS (n=78)</b>   |            |                       |                                 |                    |
| • Professional Development days per teacher                          | 12.5 Days  | Up from 7.0           | 7.3 Days                        | 7.5 Days           |
| • Attendance rate  | 96.2%      | Down from 96.6%       | 95.9%                           | 95.7%              |
| • Teachers with advanced degrees                                     | 43.6%      | Down from 54.9%       | 56.1%                           | 49.4%              |
| • Continuing contract teachers                                       | 69.2%      | Down from 79.5%       | 81.9%                           | 81.0%              |
| • Teachers with out-of-field permits                                 | 2.6%       | Up from 0.0%          | 2.0%                            | 3.0%               |
| • Teachers returning from the previous school year                   | 85.9%      | Down from 87.8%       | 86.4%                           | 85.2%              |
| • Average teacher salary   | \$38,265   | Up 1.2%               | \$38,357                        | \$38,125           |

#### SCHOOL FACTS

|   | Our School | Change From Last Year | Schools with Students like ours | Median High School |
|---|------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>SCHOOL</b>   |            |                       |                                 |                    |
| • Dropout rate  | 2.7%       | Up from 1.8%          | 3.1%                            | 2.9%               |
| • Percentage of expenditures spent on teacher salaries      | 60.3%      | N/A                   | 57.9%                           | 56.4%              |
| • Principal's years at the school                           | 6.0        | N/A                   | 3.0                             | 3.0                |
| • Percent of parents attending conferences                  | 19.8%      | N/A                   | 52.9%                           | 60.1%              |
| • Opportunities in the arts                                 | Good       | N/A                   | Excellent                       | Excellent          |
| <b>STUDENTS</b>   |            |                       |                                 |                    |
| • Older than usual for grade                                | 9.1%       | Up from 7.4%          | 8.7%                            | 10.1%              |
| • Suspended or expelled                                     | 13         | N/A                   | 28                              | 29                 |
| • Gifted and talented                                       | 14.4%      | Down from 18.1%       | 10.5%                           | 7.4%               |
| • With disabilities other than speech                       | 9.9%       | Up from 8.2%          | 9.9%                            | 10.7%              |
| • Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations | 5.5%       | N/A                   | 1.4%                            | 4.5%               |
| • Enrollment in career and technology center courses        | 779        | N/A                   | 423                             | 350                |
| • Career students participating in work-based experiences   | 22.5%      | N/A                   | 23.4%                           | 23.1%              |



## PRINCIPAL'S / SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT

South Aiken HS has an enrollment of about 1400 students. About 70% will pursue post-secondary education. The school's SAT and AP scores are above the national average. The percentage of students passing the state's Exit Exam exceeds the state and district averages. South Aiken is an AP school and offers 12 different AP courses. There will be 14 AP sections for the 2001-02 school year. All staff members are fully certified or participating in a state-approved certification program during their first or second year of teaching.

The school band has consistently received the highest rating of "Superior" in the highest competition category (Level VI) for the past 15 years. A school play is performed annually. The school has received a number of arts infusion grants over the past few years. Writing is heavily emphasized. All three school publications--literary magazine, yearbook, and newspaper--have received regional or national awards of excellence in the past three years. Every year, one to three students are named to the SC Young Writers Workshop.

School teams have won ten state championships in golf, tennis, and basketball over the past six years. Eleven of the fourteen varsity teams competed in playoff competition this past year. The NJROTC academic and orienteering teams compete at the highest levels of success in regional and national competition.

Innovative programs include a peer mediation/conflict resolution program, a new course in Broadcast Journalism (for which the school received a \$30,000 start-up grant), and extensive service learning programs for selected courses and co-curricular organizations. The school received a grant and has erected a ropes course which is used for team-building activities for students.

A major five-year fundraising program resulted in construction of a sports stadium so that school teams could play home games on campus. Expansion of the seating will be completed during the 2001-02 school year.

A new 18-classroom wing was completed during the 1997-98 year. Currently renovations are ongoing during the summer of 2001.

### EVALUATIONS BY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

| Percent  | Teachers | Students | Parents       |
|--|----------|----------|---------------|
| Satisfied with learning environment            | 70.1     | 52.9     | (Avail. 2002) |
| Satisfied with social and physical environment | 77.9     | 70.0     |               |
| Satisfied with home-school relations           | 64.9     | 71.8     |               |

### DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

**Excellent** – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Good** – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Average** – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Below Average** – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Unsatisfactory** – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

South Aiken High  
232 East Pine Log Rd.  
Aiken, SC 29803



**Grades** 9-12 High School

**Enrollment:** 1,446 Students

### Principal

Mr. William C. Gassman 803-641-2600

### Superintendent

Dr. Linda B. Eldridge 803-641-2428

### Board Chair

Dr. John B. Bradley 803-641-2431

## THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Annual School  
Report Card

**2001**

School Grade:  
Excellent



### South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit our website at  
[www.myscschools.com](http://www.myscschools.com)